

Concannon Alumni Bring Their School Home

by Theresa Jacobs

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Schools History (Vigo Co)

Two former students at Concannon High School have purchased the old building and are in the process of transforming it into a living area. The same rooms in which they learned to read and write now serve as their bedrooms and kitchens.

But even though it is now their home, they have seen to it that the school and its rich history will not be forgotten.

The school, which is situated on a hill of approximately 6 acres, was purchased by Jim and Steve Page in March, 1975. "It had sat empty for a year before we got it," reported Jim, "and was in very bad repair. But after six years of evenings and weekends spent working on the building, we have completely remodeled and refurbished the main floor." The two men have knocked out some walls, lowered some ceilings, and raised some of the floors. But for the most part, they have retained a blend of old and new that is both effective and beautiful.



Little change is noticed at the front entrance

One of their prized possessions is an old report card they found while working on the school. The card had been placed behind a baseboard. Steve suspects this person may have put the card there on purpose. The grades thereon were all Cs and Ds. We are withholding the name on the card for obvious reasons.

All of these and many more historical treasures of the school are being preserved and displayed in glass cases in the main floor hallway.

Their home also has been the scene of a number of class reunions held at the school in the past year, according to the brothers. The Class of 1940 celebrated their 40th reunion by having a picnic on the lawn. Reunions have also been held at the school for Classes of 1935, 1956 and 1960.

In attendance at the reunion for the Class of 1935 was Jim and Steve Page's mother, Lilly Page.

The impressive building, located about a mile north of West Terre Haute just off highway 150, was built in 1917. Many residents of the area have memories of their days spent at Concannon School, as do Jim and Steve, who informed us that they attended school in the very room in which they and their families now live.

Perhaps because the brothers have fond memories of the school years at Concannon, they know other former students feel the same. So they are collecting memorabilia of all kinds which will remain as a permanent history of Concannon.

They have been sent a number of such items from former students. Their collection includes pictures, letters and pencils with the school name imprinted, an original yearbook put together by the students themselves, the first printed yearbook, and many other items.

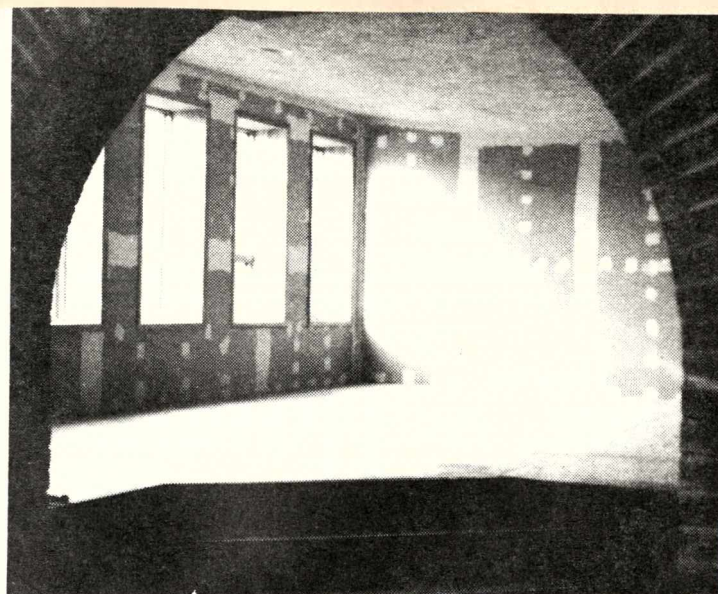
One lady even sent the men a class ring from her home in California!

REFERENCE
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Vigo County Public Library



Steve Page, Steve's wife Kelly, and Jim Page sit in Jim and Paula's finished living room. . .



. . . while Steve and Kelly's living room is almost completed.